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(b) (i) what was the nature and amount of work turned out by the last incumbent as Curator ; and

(ii) what was the work turned out by him in the edition, revision and publication of Gazetteers ; and

(c) whether the Government have considered or will consider the proposal of allotting the work of the revision of Gazetteers and the preparation of statistical volumes to able Indian Civilians or experienced Deputy Collectors and in the respective districts and having the work done under the supervision and guidance of District Collectors or the Board of Revenue as the case may be, with a view to expedite the work ?

A.—(a) The post of Editor of Gazetteers was combined with that of Curator, Madras Record Office, with effect from 1st July 1926 when Mr. J. J. Cotton, I.C.S., joined duty. It was considered unnecessary to have two Separate Officers. He held charge from 1st July 1926 till his death on 20th June 1927.

M.R.Ry. K. N. Krishnaswami Ayyar Avargal, Personal Assistant to the Editor of Gazetteers and Curator, Madras Record Office, was in temporary charge of the Madras Record Office till 16th December 1927, when the present Curator, M.R.Ry. A. V. Venkatarama Ayyar Avargal took charge. He does not attend to Gazetteer work.

(b) (i) Messrs. Cotton and Krishnaswami Ayyar were in charge of the duties of the Record Office including the reprint of the old records. It is not possible to measure this work.

(ii) At the time of his death Mr. Cotton had made considerable progress in the preparation of the 'A' volume for one district (Nellore) and had sent 21 'B' volumes to the Press. The Personal Assistant to the Editor of Gazetteers has been continuing the preparation of the 'B' volumes and the supplementary chapters for them.

(c) The Government have recognized the need for up-to-date Gazetteers and have taken steps for their preparation from time to time. The preparation of 'A' volumes cannot at present be resumed as no suitable officer is available. The hon. Member's suggestion will be borne in mind.

Qualifications and duties of the Personal Assistant to the Editor of the Gazetteer.

* 313 *Q.*—Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed Sahib : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any special qualifications and duties have been prescribed for the office of the Personal Assistant to the Editor of the Gazetteer and for that of the Statistician ; and

(b) what are the qualifications and duties of the present Personal Assistant to the Editor and of the present Statistician ?

A.—(a) No special qualifications have been prescribed by the Government for these posts. The post of Statistician has been abolished.

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(b) The present Personal Assistant to the Editor of Gazetteers is a permanent sarishtadar of the District Court, East Tanjore, and was on the list of persons selected for appointment as District Munsif. He was specially selected for the post of Personal Assistant by the late Mr. J. J. Cotton, I.C.S. There is no Statistician at present.

Irrigation

Further investigation of the Vamsadhara Project.

*314 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Vamsadhara Project in the Ganjam district will be taken up for further investigation from the last enquiry; if so, when and by what agency;

(b) whether the Government propose to appoint a special officer for further investigation of this important project;

(c) whether the Government have considered the feasibility of the proposal made by the Executive Engineer, Ganjam division, to the Irrigation Committee to rectify and supplement irrigation under the Dusi and Urlam channels;

(d) whether the Government will call for a report on the proposals of the Executive Engineer referred to in (c) above;

(e) whether the Government are aware that the area alongside the river is subject to periodical droughts;

(f) whether the Government have considered the project as a protective work;

(g) whether the Government have ascertained that a regulating dam or anicut across the Langulya river will improve irrigation under Dusi and Urlam channels; and

(h) when the Government will have this matter investigated?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government await the report of the committee constituted in G.O. No. 1244 I., dated 7th June 1927, of which the hon. Member is a Member.

(c) & (d) The Executive Engineer's report referred to has not been received, but the Collector as President of the Committee has submitted a preliminary report containing the gist of the Executive Engineer's suggestions, and has promised to submit a further report.

(e) The Government are not aware that the facts are as stated.

(f) The Vamsadhara Project was reported to be an unremunerative one, and in 1920 the Government ordered that the consideration of the project even as a protective work should be deferred.

(g) & (h) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 123.